

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-37 (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state with the transceiver on and a low power state with the transceiver off, the node in the low power state switching to the active state at regular intervals to receive a periodically broadcasted polling message and the node synchronizing to ~~the a received broadcast~~ polling message.

39. (Previously presented) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking in response to at least a first timer signal to receive a broadcast packet to which the node synchronizes, the node in an active state entering a low power state in response to at least a second timer signal.

40. (Currently amended) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking at a timed interval to receive a particular type of packet that is broadcast periodically in a broadcast packet time slot, the node being responsive to the ~~broadcast~~ particular type of packet to switch to the active state.

41. (Currently amended) A node for use in a wireless network as recited in claim 40 wherein the node switches from the active state to the low power state if the node does not receive a message within a second timed interval.

42. (Currently amended) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:
- waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;
 - receiving at a waken node a message of a particular type that is broadcast periodically in a broadcast message time slot;
 - synchronizing the node to ~~a~~the received broadcast message; and
 - switching the node to an active state in response to ~~a~~the received broadcast message.
43. (Previously presented) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:
- waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;
 - receiving at a waken node a message broadcast periodically in a broadcast message time slot;
 - synchronizing the node to a received broadcast message;
 - switching the node to an active state in response to a received broadcast message;
 - and
 - switching the node to the low power state if a message is not received in the active state for a predetermined period of time.
44. (Previously presented) A wireless network comprising:
- a first node for periodically broadcasting a polling message;
 - a second node having an active state for receiving messages and a low power state, the second node switching from the active state to the low power state if a message is not received in the active state for a predetermined period of time and the second node in a low power state waking at regular time intervals to receive a broadcast packet to which the second node synchronizes.
45. (Previously presented) A method of operating nodes in a wireless network comprising:
- operating a node in an active state;
 - switching the node from the active state to a low power state if a message is not received for a predetermined period of time in the active state;

periodically broadcasting from another node a polling message;
waking the node in the low power state at timed intervals to receive a broadcast
polling message; and
synchronizing the waken node to the received broadcast polling message.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein expiration of the second timed interval is indicated by expiration of a timer set in accordance with a maximum time for which the node is to remain awake waiting for a message addressed to the node.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein if the node receives a message within the second timed interval, the node remains in the active state for at least a third timed interval different from the second timed interval.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein if the node receives a message that is not addressed to the node within the second timed interval, the node remains in the active state for at least a third timed interval different from the second timed interval.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is a function of a period at which a particular type of message is broadcast.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is equal to a period at which a polling message is broadcast.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the regular interval is a multiple of a period at which a polling message is broadcast.

52. (Currently amended) In a node having a transceiver for use in a wireless network, one or more circuits comprising:

a control to operate the node in an active state with the transceiver on and a low power state with the transceiver off, the node in the low power state switching to the active state at regular intervals to receive a periodically broadcasted polling message and the node synchronizing to ~~the a received~~ a received broadcast-polling message.

53. (Previously presented) In a node having a transceiver for use in a wireless network, one or more circuits comprising:

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking in response to at least a first timer signal to receive a broadcast packet to which the node synchronizes, the node in an active state entering a low power state in response to at least a second timer signal.

54. (Currently amended) In a node having a transceiver for use in a wireless network, one or more circuits comprising:

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking at a timed interval to receive a particular type of packet that is broadcast periodically in a broadcast packet time slot, the node being responsive to the broadcast packet to switch to the active state.

55. (New) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:
waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;
receiving at the waken node a message that is transmitted periodically;
synchronizing the node to the received message; and
switching operation of the node to an active state in response to the received message,
where the regular interval is a multiple of a period at which the message is transmitted.

56. (New) An electrical circuit for utilization in a node of a wireless communication network, the electrical circuit comprising:

at least one circuit that operates to, at least:
wake a node in a low-power state at regular intervals;
receive at the waken node a message that is transmitted periodically;
synchronize the node to the received message; and

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switch operation of the node to an active state in response to the received message,

where the regular interval is a multiple of a period at which the message is transmitted.